

supporting the growth of each species in the grove. Trees and plants in Armstrong Woods, such as Douglas Fir, Big Leaf Maple, Redwood Trillium, Sword Fern, and the most renowned, the imperial coast Redwood, contribute to the forest's diverse ecosystem.

Nurtured by abundant winter rain, moderate year-round temperatures and partial shade, coast Redwoods can grow up to 2–3 feet per year. At more than 310-feet tall, Parson Jones is the Reserve's tallest tree. The cloak of fog that protects the Redwoods from summer's harsh drought conditions allows these supreme trees to flourish along the coast from southern Oregon to central California.

Despite logging and raging fires, these mighty trees continue to provide their striking beauty, ecological significance and are witnesses to hundreds of years of history. The Reserve's oldest tree, Colonel Armstrong, is estimated to be more than 1,400 years old.

Part of the Redwood's resiliency is attributed to its natural resistance to insects, fungi, and fire. Some trees bare scars of the fire that roared in 1926, which is a testament to the strength of the thick, reddish bark.

The history of Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve extends back to 1850, when the area was established as a lumber camp on the north bank of the Russian River called Stumptown, known today as Guerneville.

In 1874, Colonel James Boydston Armstrong, a journalist, surveyor and colonel with the Union Army, relocated from Ohio to Sonoma County where he logged and operated a sawmill site. Armstrong acquired 440 acres of land three miles north of Guerneville, and deeded the land to his daughter, Kate Armstrong, with the intention of preserving the land until its opening as an arboretum.

Because of Armstrong's financial distress and his daughter's ailing health, the parcel was eventually purchased by a family friend, Harrison M. LeBaron. Armstrong's vigilant efforts to preserve the land prevailed under the direction of his daughter Lizzie and the LeBaron family. They launched a well-supported campaign to protect the once mighty forest.

In 1917, the County of Sonoma purchased the property for \$80,000 and operated the grove until the State of California assumed ownership in 1934. The Reserve's trails and amphitheatre were created by the Civil Conservation Corps during the Great Depression.

Thanks in large part to Colonel Armstrong's preservation efforts, today the beauty, history and serenity of Armstrong Woods is enjoyed by students, campers, hikers and visitors from around the globe.

Armstrong Woods State Natural Reserve offers visitors an abundance of hiking trail choices, ranging from brief one-mile walks, to an intense 9-mile loop that ascends from 120 feet to 1,250 feet at the summit by Bullfrog Pond. Adventure seekers can enjoy back country campsites, equestrians can trot along trails and families can meander into the park to enjoy lunch flanked by awe-inspiring, 300-foot trees.

Through Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods, the Reserve's cooperating volunteer association, students learn about the forest's flora and fauna and can participate in an Environmental Living Program where they discover and explore the area.

Madam Speaker, my hope is that through continued preservation efforts and work on be-

half of park staff and volunteers, Armstrong Woods State Natural Reserve will continue to serve as a tranquil reprieve, an ecological treasure, and a recreational destination for years to come.

HONORING RUSSELL DUNHAM,
WORLD WAR II MEDAL OF
HONOR WINNER

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Russell Dunham, Medal of Honor Winner, who passed away at the age of 89 on April 6, 2009.

Russell Dunham was born in 1920, in East Carondelet, Illinois and grew up on a farm in Fosterburg, Illinois. With his brother, Ralph, Russell traveled to Peoria, Illinois in August, 1940 to find work. Instead of finding a job, both of them enlisted in the Army and would serve together throughout the war.

Russell saw action in North Africa, Sicily, and Anzio as part of the 3rd Infantry Division. On January 8, 1945, TSgt. Russell Dunham and his platoon were stationed on a snowy hillside near Kayzersberg, in the Alsace region of France, near the German border. German machine gun nests were covering the Americans from positions at the top of the hill and American artillery units were about to begin shelling the location where Dunham and his men were situated. This prompted Dunham to take the courageous action that would earn him the Medal of Honor.

With a mattress cover over his uniform to help blend into the white surroundings and carrying 12 carbine magazines and a dozen grenades, Dunham made his way up the hill toward the enemy position. When he was within 10 yards of the enemy machine guns, Dunham stood up to attack and was struck in the back by enemy fire. Despite his wounds, Dunham got to his feet to resume his attack, kicking away an enemy grenade that had landed at his feet.

Dunham continued his assault, taking out the first machine gun nest, then proceeded another 50 yards where he took out a second machine nest. Finally, he made his way up the hill another 65 yards where he took out the third and final enemy location.

As a direct result of Russell Dunham's single-handed charge, the lives of 150 of his fellow soldiers were saved. For this heroism, Russell Dunham was awarded the Medal of Honor at Zeppelin Stadium in Nuremberg, Germany on April 23, 1945.

After returning home from the war, Russell Dunham accepted a position with the Veterans Administration where he worked for 30 years, explaining benefits to veterans.

As is typical of so many who display rare acts of courage, Russell Dunham would deflect praise and insist that he did not consider himself a hero. He claimed that he was just doing his job. I am sure the 150 soldiers who survived that day because of Dunham's heroics would have a different opinion.

Russell Dunham is survived by a daughter, stepdaughter, stepson, three brothers, three sisters, three grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in an expression of honor and appreciation for a true American hero, Russell Dunham.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PASSING
OF SPECIALIST MICHAEL J.
ANAYA, UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of Specialist Michael J. Anaya, United States Army. Specialist Anaya gave his life in defense of our Nation and was killed in action on April 12, 2009 in Baiji, Iraq. Specialist Anaya was serving with the 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

Nick-named the "Anayalator" by his Army buddies, Michael loved the Army and wanted to serve in the Infantry. His military skills were obvious to everyone, as he was awarded the Expert Infantryman's Badge along with other military awards. He loved the military and his country. He also loved his family, friends, and fishing. He was a fine young American—an example of the greatness of our Nation.

Michael was buried with full military honors and will go to his eternal rest as an American hero. We remember this patriot—this fine soldier—and thank him for making the ultimate sacrifice for the United States of America. I am always reminded of the greatness of our country when I meet military families like the Anaya's who supported Michael as he volunteered to defend America.

The people of Crestview, Northwest Florida, and our Nation have many reasons to be proud of Specialist Anaya. Vicki and I will keep Michael's entire family, especially his parents, Carmelo Sr. and Cheryl Anaya of Crestview, his brother Carmelo Jr., and his sister, Trista, in our thoughts and prayers. I hope all the people of Northwest Florida and our nation do the same. May God bless Specialist Michael Anaya and all of those who serve in our armed forces and defend our Nation around the globe.

HONORING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE ST. ANTHONY
CATHOLIC SCHOOL IN SAN ANTONIO,
FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 125th Anniversary of St. Anthony Catholic School in San Antonio, Florida. Founded on April 29, 1884 through the tireless efforts of Father E.J. Dunne, the school grew out of a class of 14 children taught in the home of Mrs. Cecilia E. Morse.

The first school house was a small 12 foot by 24 foot wooden structure. In 1892, the Benedictine Sisters, who remain involved with the school to this day, arrived from Pennsylvania and constructed two large wooden